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**To: ConnectME Authority**  
**Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME**

**RE: Pre-Application Letter – 7<sup>th</sup> Round Grant**

**Project: Big Lake Township Fiber Project,**  
**Big Lake Township, ME**

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In response to the Authority's announcement of its Seventh Grant Round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("PBB") is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "Big Lake Township" Fiber Project ("BLT").

1. We are proposing to install a FTTH (Fiber To The Home) GPON Optical Network Terminal on West St in Big Lake Township, ME, 4 miles west of Princeton on US Route 1. This Optical Network Terminal will serve a majority of the BLT area that includes approximately 90 households. The exact service area will be the geographical area covered by the LEC's pole facilities from the Terminal site. Pioneer will cover West Street, Campground Rd and several side roads.
2. Our knowledge of this area is extensive. We have communicated with other service providers (FairPoint and TimeWarner) in the region and there is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this locale.
3. We intend to utilize a fiber optic backhaul link via the Three Ring Binder project to serve a remotely located GPON Terminal. The standard offer for broadband speed will be a Tier 5 level 10M/1M delivered to each customer using GPON FTTH technology. It is estimated the installation of the backhaul fiber link and GPON Terminal can be completed within 18 months of funding depending on weather conditions when funding is made available and ILEC make-ready time. Customer installations can begin immediately once the GPON Terminal is operational and the FTTH is in place.
4. Current estimated project cost is \$152,100. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. PBB is requesting funding for \$76,050 representing 50% of the estimated project cost.
5. Matching TIF funds from the Washington County Government will fund \$76,050, or 50% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.

6. There are an estimated 40 customers served within the project site. PBB has obtained the surveys of possible customers who will commit construction is complete. There are no known businesses, however there are several professionals that desire reliable Internet service to be able to work from their home offices. We calculate that the Terminal can serve all 40 year round customers, thus providing 100% coverage within the area of the township that has poles. There are portions of the town that are far off the grid, and for the most part those sites are seasonal.

7. We are working with the County of Washington's Unorganized Territory (UT) and Big Lake Township in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

8. PBB serves in 55 Maine towns from 80 locations, broadcasting over 5000 square miles, and serving over 5000 customers via fiberoptic cable, wireless, cable, DSL, dialup. PBB has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Pioneer has been the recipient of past grant funding from the ConnectME Authority as well.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Flewelling

